

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

Claim 1 (currently amended): A method of inducing pro-inflammatory effects in synovial cells, comprising:

exposing a plurality of synovial cells to a peptide comprising an amino acid sequence set forth in ~~SEQ ID NO.: 2~~; SEQ ID NO: 2; and

culturing the exposed cells and obtaining or/and assessing the result of inducing pro-inflammatory effect in synovial cells.

Claim 2 (original): The method of Claim 1, wherein the peptide has pro-inflammatory effects on human synovial cells.

Claim 3 (original): The method of Claim 1, wherein the peptide induces expression of cell adhesion molecules in human synovial cells.

Claim 4 (original): The method of Claim 1, wherein the peptide has pro-inflammatory effects on synovial cells of a rheumatoid joint of a patient.

Claim 5 (currently amended): A pharmaceutical composition comprising ~~the peptide of Claim 1~~ a peptide and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or diluent[[]], said peptide

comprising an amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:2.

Claim 6 (currently amended): A pharmaceutically acceptable salt or derivative of a peptide the peptide of Claim 1[[.]], said peptide comprising an amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 2.

Claim 7 (currently amended): An analog of a peptide comprising an amino acid sequence set forth in ~~SEQ ID NO: 2~~ SEQ ID NO: 2, wherein C-terminal proline residue of SEQ ID NO: 2 is amidated at carboxyl group of said residue ~~proline 4 comprises an amide form of proline~~, the analog being substantially ineffective at inducing expression or production of cell adhesion molecules, or cell adhesion messengers, in synovial cells.

Claim 8 (original): A pharmaceutical composition comprising the analog of Claim 7 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or diluent.

Claim 9 (original): A pharmaceutically acceptable salt or derivative of the analog of Claim 7.

Claim 10 (original): A method of treating or preventing inflammation of synovial joint in a subject by administering an effective amount of the analog of Claim 7.

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Claim 11 (original): A method of treating or preventing rheumatoid arthritis in a subject by administering an effective amount of the analog of Claim 7.

Claims 12-15 (canceled).